

September 15, 2017

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee
Larry Johnson, President, Montana Photonics Industry Alliance



MONTANA PHOTONICS INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

Please describe your company and the energy project you are developing or are interested in developing in Montana. Include potential project locations, proposed funding, and potential timelines for development.

The Montana Photonics Industry Alliance (MPIA) is an alliance of almost 30 companies in Montana for whom photonics technology is element of their products and/or services. Examples of products manufactured by our member companies include laser and laser testing systems, laser rangefinders, aerial reconnaissance systems, and visual inspection systems.

At least one of the products manufactured by an MPIA member company is targeted at the advanced energy market. Specifically, Bridger Photonics (Bozeman, MT) is developing a laser based remote sensing system that is capable of detecting petroleum related gas leaks from an airborne platform.

Have you reached out to or met with any executive agencies in Montana or elected officials about the project? What was your experience working with entities in Montana?

Over the years the MPIA and its member companies have worked with various local and state governments including the City of Bozeman, Prospera Business Networks, the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Montana Department of Commerce. In all cases that I am aware of, these entities have been easy to access and very supportive in their response.

Do you have suggestions for how Montana could assist companies in finding out what agencies to work with within Montana state government in the early stages of project development?

No. In my experience it has been easy to find out what state agencies to work with on any particular project.

Have you encountered any regulatory burdens to-date or are you concerned about any existing regulatory requirements in Montana? If so, please describe those regulations and your experiences or concerns.

No.

Are there any particular tax incentives, other incentives, or policies in Montana that make it a particularly attractive place to pursue energy development? If so, what are those incentives or policies?

None that I am aware of.

Are there additional incentives or policies that would make Montana a more attractive place for energy development? If so, please describe those policies or incentives.

- Institute a Business Equipment Tax Exemption for Photonics Companies
- Establish a Technology Investment Tax Credit

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